

SITUATION REPORT NO. 19
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: June 29, 2005 Time: 7:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven on June 9 issued an emergency declaration to address severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, hail and high winds throughout the state and for continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No changes from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** The Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted a chance for strong to severe thunderstorms statewide on June 29. Some thunderstorms could produce heavy rain, large hail, damaging winds and tornadoes.

In Richland County, on June 29, NWS recorded rainfall totals of up to 2.5 inches in about an hour in the western part of the county this morning. Additional rainfall amounts up to three inches are possible.

The NWS radar estimated precipitation amounts this morning of up to three inches fell in central Eddy County. An additional one to two inches will be possible with the June 29 thunderstorms.

Localized rainfall totals of at least five inches were reported by the NWS from thunderstorms on June 29 in Sargent County. Additional rainfall of up to two inches is possible.

The NWS radar indicated up to three inches of rain fell the afternoon of June 29 across Kidder and Wells Counties.

NWS meteorologists indicated heavy rain across southern Burleigh, Oliver and eastern Morton Counties early June 29. Up to two inches of rain had fallen by early afternoon with moderate to heavy rain in some areas late this afternoon and early evening.

Widespread heavy rains have fallen across the southern third of the Red River Valley and in the Devils Lake Basin.

River Statements

On June 29, the NWS issued flood warnings for the lower James River at Ludden Dam and Oakes; the Red River at Fargo, East Grand Forks, Oslo, Drayton and Pembina; the Souris River at Minot, Logan, Sawyer, Velva, Towner, Bantry and Westhope; the Missouri River near Williston; as well as the Des Lacs, Willow Creek and the Wintering Rivers. Several flash flood watches and warnings are in effect for western, central and eastern North Dakota.

The NWS indicated heavy rains overnight in the Souris River Basin are raising river levels. Rainfall amounts of one to two inches were common. Crests below flood stage occurred on the Des Lacs River at Foxholm and on the Souris River near Minot on June 28 from rains that fell June 25. Second crests above flood stage and minor flooding for these locations are expected by the July Fourth weekend. As the floodwaters move downstream, flood crests and minor flooding will occur by the weekend for the upstream locations but not until mid-July for the downstream areas. More rain is on the way in the next 24 hours. Rainfall runoff will be rapid due to the already saturated soil conditions.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	19.31 feet @ 11:00 a.m. June 29	Crest @ 20.2 feet on July 5
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	42.62 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 29	Crest @ 44.5 feet on July 3
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	35.72 feet @ 11:00 a.m. June 29	River trend is falling
James River at Oakes	93 feet	92.91 feet @ 10:30 a.m. June 29	River trend is rising
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	12.34 feet @ 10:45 a.m. June 29	Crest @ 12.5 feet on June 30
Missouri River near Williston	20 feet	20.65 feet @ 11:00 a.m. June 29	Crested, river trend is falling
Des Lacs River at Foxholm	16 feet	8.8 feet @ 10:00 a.m. June 29	Crest@ 16.1 feet on July 1
Souris River above Minot	14.0 feet	11.84 feet at 12:00 p.m. June 29	Crest @ 14.4 feet on July 3
Souris River at Logan	34.0 feet	23.57 feet at 1:00 p.m. June 29	Crest @ 35.6 feet on July 2
Souris River at Sawyer	22.0 feet	8.82 feet at 1:00 p.m. June 28	Crest @ 23.40 feet on July 2
Souris River at Velva	1505 feet	1491.5 feet at 11:30 a.m. June 29	Crest @ 1506.6 feet on July 2
Souris River near Towner	52.0 feet	48.5 feet	Crest forecast: 53-55 feet on July 8
Souris River near Bantry	11.0 feet	6.88 feet at 7:00 a.m. June 29	Crest forecast: 12-13 feet on July 9
Souris River near Westhope	10.0 feet	8.32 feet at 12:00 p.m. June 29	Crest forecast: 13-15 feet on July 22
Wintering River near Karlsruhe	7.0 feet	2.9 feet at 7:00 a.m. June 29	Crest forecast: 7.1 feet on July 5
Willow Creek near Willow City	10.0 feet	8.87 feet at 12:00 p.m. June 29	Crest @ 13.5 feet on July 3

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

Kidder County

High winds on June 26 caused extensive damages to a rural electric cooperative, knocking down seven aluminum poles and two high-voltage transformers.

McHenry County

On June 29, the County Emergency Manager indicated that roads are saturated and rutted and agricultural crops are stressed due to the continuing rainfall. Individuals are seeking assistance as a result of the persistent rainfall.

Pembina County

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Board (CEB) indicated the county has had over 12 inches of moisture since January 1, 2005, on lands already saturated at freeze time last year. For the past several days, weather conditions have been cool and cloudy, which prevented the ground from drying. The board states prevented planting acres will rise to 60,000 acres because late planting could not take place and crops that are planted are sitting in water. The grains are yellowing and row crops have not matured in the last three weeks.

On June 28, the Emergency Manager reported water is within six inches of the first floor of a Cavalier home that is surrounded by floodwaters. Firefighters, who are assisting the residents, indicated water will spread to the garage area. County pumps are in use, but operations are impeded because water is surrounding the area.

On June 29, the Emergency Manager reported water was flowing over Highway 12 because of the additional rain. The area has been sandbagged and is open. The Sheriff indicated all county dams are functioning appropriately. He informed residents that township roads are soft and advised caution.

The city of Mountain is having lift station problems and currently has an emergency pumping operation in progress. City officials believe the source of the problem may be a broken line leading to the lagoon; they will continue to investigate.

The city of Neche is also experiencing lift station problems keeping up with the discharge; public works crews have placed a pump to assist. The county is also experiencing power fluctuations.

Steele County

The Mountrail County USDA CEB reported high winds and up to one inch of rain occurred on June 27 in the northern one-third of the county. Numerous trees were uprooted with branches broken off and scattered in the fields. Some buildings and grain bins were destroyed.

Ward County

On June 29, approximately 400 residents were advised that evacuation may be necessary due to overland flooding caused by heavy rainfall. Thus far, four to six homes in low-lying areas of the Meadowbrook Subdivision have been evacuated. Residents in low-lying areas of the Eastside Estates, east of Meadowbrook Subdivision, are being advised to prepare to evacuate. Residents are being asked to report roadway, culvert and bridge damage to the County Engineer. Residents have also been informed of the availability of sandbags at Minot City Public Works and Ward County Highway Departments. The County Emergency Manager reported that the county received up to 1.75 inches of rain from the June 28-29 thunderstorm.

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:** On June 29, the American Red Cross (ARC) set up a call center for Ward County residents to report damages and answer questions. The ARC has also set up a shelter for the Meadowbrooks Subdivision evacuees at the Jim Hill Middle School in Minot.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:**

Bottineau County

On June 29, the Mayor of Souris is calling a meeting with the Bottineau County Engineer, County Water Resource Board and other county officials in regard to the pumping of water on the northwest part of town. The water that is being pumped is flowing onto a farmer's land, causing flooding; officials are searching for an alternate solution.

Pembina County

On June 29, the Emergency Manager requested assistance in locating three four- to six-inch pumps for flood countermeasures and a two-inch sludge pump for the city of Neche lift station. The N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) was contacted regarding this request and provided a four-inch and a six-inch pump and a pump operated off a power take off (PTO). In addition, a second pump is being moved to the Grand Forks District. The State Water Commission (SWC) assisted with locating an alternate pump for the city of Neche.

Stark County

On June 28, the Stark County Commission declared an emergency.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** No change from previous reports.

8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:** No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security